(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Arising from the recommendations of the National Development Council to plan for a 4% annual growth rate in agriculture, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences held a brainstorming meeting seeking Science and Technology ideas and inputs that contribute to achieve the set objectives. As an outcome of the meeting a Task Force has been established to facilitate and monitor the following initiatives, (i) information outreach and reach out programmes; (ii) showcasing of successful/proven technologies; and (iii) exploratory time targeted studies/development programmes. Time bound action initiated.

Expenditure on technical education

†*364. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Board on Education has recommended that it is necessary to spend 0.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product on technical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and whether the said Committee has also given suggestions for expansion of technical education in the country; and

(c) if so, the suggested percentage of expansion required in the existing technical education system?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India had constituted in September, 2004, a Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to examine in detail the subject of ''Financing of Higher and Technical Education''. The Committee in its Report submitted in June, 2005, *inter-alia*, recommended, that with respect to State funding for higher education, as a thumb rule, 50 per cent of the total education budget should be allocated to the elementary education and for the balanced development of all levels of education, 25 per cent has to be allocated to the secondary education and the balance 25 per cent should go to the higher and technical education. The Committee further stated that the suggested normative ratios assume significance if the total allocation to education is raised to the level of six per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP). This would mean that higher and technical education would together get about 1.5 per cent of the GNP with approximately 1.0 per cent of GNP for the higher education and 0.5 per cent of the GNP for the technical education. As per the Committee, hardly 0.4 per cent of GNP was being spent on higher education and 0.1 per cent of GNP on technical education. The Committee has emphasized the critical need for a significant growth in financing of the higher education, which includes technical education. The Committee has suggested quantitative expansion of higher education including technical education alongwith quality and equity.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.